

REMARKS

Claims 36-39 and 41 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,291,170. Claims 36-39 and 41 have been cancelled by the present amendment, and replaced with new claims 42-54. If the Examiner is of the opinion that an obviousness-type double patenting rejection should apply to the new claims, it is requested that any requirement for the filing of a Terminal Disclaimer be held in abeyance until such time that the claims are otherwise indicated as being allowable.

The amendments here presented are made for the purposes of better defining the invention, rather than to overcome the rejections for patentability. No presumption should therefore attach that the claims have been narrowed over those earlier presented, or that subject matter or equivalents thereof to which the Applicants are entitled has been surrendered. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Request for Allowance

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and an early allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. If any matters remain which could be resolved in a telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned, the Examiner is hereby respectfully requested to call the undersigned to expedite resolution of any such remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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